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[illegible]

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the sub-paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 with the following rewritten sub-paragraph:

-- FIG. 18 is a view of a diagram illustrating a torsion characteristic curve for the damper mechanism; --

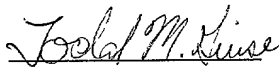
Please replace the sub-paragraph beginning on page 8, line 5 with the following rewritten sub-paragraph:

FIG. 19 is an enlarged partial view of FIG. 18 illustrating a rotational gap that is positioned in a positive and/or negative side second stage of the torsion characteristic curve of FIG. 18;

REMARKS

Entrance of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The pages captioned "MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS" include the marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dated: 3/1/02  
G:\02-Feb-MOM\ED-US010068 Preliminary Amendment

***MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS***

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The sub-paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 was amended as follows:

-- FIG. 18 is a view of a diagram illustrating a torsion characteristic curve for the damper mechanism; --

The sub-paragraph beginning on page 8, line 5 was amended as follows:

FIG. 19 is an enlarged partial view of FIG. 18 illustrating a rotational gap that is positioned in a positive and/or negative side second stage of the torsion characteristic curve of FIG. 18;